RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 14th August, 2001/23 Sravana, 1923 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Economic offences in the country

†*321. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of economic offences in the country has increased over the years;

(b) if not, the number of economic offences that have come to notice during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the quantum of amount estimated to be involved therein alongwith the number of those cases where those guilty have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such trend is indicated by the figures.

(b) The number of offences relating to central excise, customs duty, income-tax (cases of concealed income of Rs. 1 crore and above) and FERA during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 47920, 49630 and 48240 respectively. The number of frauds reported by Public Sector Banks to RBI during 1998, 1999 and 2000 are 1855, 1839 and 1858 respectively. During these years, the number of cases of drug seizures under the NDPS Act, 1985 are 12446, 13029, and 12460 respectively.

(c) The amount estimated to be involved in the cases relating to central excise, customs duty, income tax and FERA for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Rs. 3915 crore, Rs. 7879 crore and Rs. 5636 crore respectively. The amount involved in the cases of bank frauds during 1998, 1999 and 2000 are Rs. 481 crore, Rs. 537 crore and Rs. 539 crore respectively.

The number of cases in which persons have been found guilty would not be known until all the appellate procedures and fora are exhausted.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.